

## NEWS RELEASE

**Wheat Varieties**  
**July 23, 2002**

### ALSEN AND BEN ARE LEADING WHEAT VARIETIES IN 2002

The leading North Dakota spring wheat variety for 2002 was Alsen, which moved up from sixth place in 2001, according to the North Dakota Agricultural Statistics Service (NDASS). Other leading spring wheat varieties were Gunner, Reeder, Parshall, and Oxen. Of the 7.0 million acres of spring wheat planted in North Dakota, the top five varieties accounted for 64.0 percent of the total. Russ, the 2001 leader, fell to seventh in 2002.

The durum wheat variety Ben maintained its first place position for the fourth straight year and Lebsock moved into second place from eighth in 2001. Mountrail climbed into third place in 2002. Together the top three varieties accounted for 55.8 percent of the 2.0 million of durum acres planted in 2002. These top three varieties are all North Dakota releases. Renville dropped from second place in 2001 to sixth place in 2002. Munich slipped from third to seventh place.

The data in this report is based on the results of a June survey conducted by USDA's North Dakota Agricultural Statistics Service of over 1,900 wheat producers. The North Dakota Wheat Commission and the North Dakota State University (NDSU) Agriculture Experiment Station provided supporting funds for this survey. Free copies of the publication are available from the North Dakota Wheat Commission, 4023 State Street, Bismarck, ND 58503-0690; telephone 701-328-5111.

#### Spring Wheat

**Alsen** was the most popular spring wheat variety this year. It accounted for 30.8 percent of the spring wheat acres or 2.2 million acres planted. This compared to 6.7 percent last year when it was in sixth place. Alsen, a 2000 North Dakota release, was most popular in the northern two-thirds of the state.

**Gunner**, a 1995 Agri Pro release, maintained its second place position in 2002. Gunner accounted for 9.1 percent of the spring wheat acres planted, compared to 16.1 percent in 2001. It was the second leading variety in northwest, north central, northeast and central districts.

**Reeder** was the third most popular spring wheat variety, up from eighth place last year. It accounted for 8.6 percent of the spring wheat acres statewide, compared to 4.3 percent last year. Reeder, a 1999 North Dakota release, was most popular in the southwest and south central districts.

**Parshall** moved up to fourth place in 2002 from fifth in 2001, accounting for 7.9 percent of the spring wheat planted acreage.

#### Durum Wheat

**Ben** was the most popular North Dakota durum wheat variety for the fourth year in a row. It accounted for 520,300 acres or 26.0 percent of the 2.0 million durum acres planted, down from 27.5 percent in 2001. It has broad appeal statewide and was the leading variety in the southern two-thirds of the state.

**Lebsock** moved up to second place in 2002 from eighth. It represented 315,000 acres or 15.8 percent of the durum acres planted, compared to 3.2 percent in 2001. It was the leading variety in the north central and the northeast district.

**Mountrail** moved into third place in 2002 from fourth. It comprised 14.0 percent of the acres of durum planted this year, up from the 7.9 percent of last year's acreage. It was released in 1998 by North Dakota.

**Kyle** rose from seventh to fourth place this year with 7.8 percent of the planted durum acreage, up from 6.2 percent in 2001. It was grown mainly in the northwest district.

#### Winter Wheat

Some of the winter wheat varieties reported planted in North Dakota include Elkhorn, Harding, Ransom, Roughrider and Wesley. Winter wheat variety estimates are not published due to insufficient number of winter wheat variety reports in 2002.

**For More Information Contact:**

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